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THE HARVARD LEGAL AID BUREAU. — Last spring a legal aid bureau was organized by a group of second and third year students in the Harvard Law School. It met with instant success. "Its object and purpose," as expressed in its constitution, "shall be to render legal aid and assistance gratuitously to all persons who may appear worthy thereof and who from poverty are unable to procure it." During six weeks of operation in the spring over seventy cases were passed on. Many of these involved considerable work but none were carried into court. During the summer the bureau assisted the State Board of Charities in the prosecution of bastardy cases and the like. Since the opening of the university this fall the work of the bureau has been even more successful than last spring. With the approval of the State Board of Bar Examiners the men are now taking cases into court. They are availing themselves of an old statute, still in force in Massachusetts, which makes it possible for one not a member of the bar to represent clients in court if equipped with a written power of attorney.

The Bureau consists of twenty-seven members, the majority of whom are third year men in the school, but at least ten each year are chosen from the second year class. In filling vacancies the policy is followed of choosing men who stand well in the regular work of the Law School. This does not mean that an exceptionally high stand in scholarship is requisite for election, but a man must show ability in his law studies somewhat

above the average in order to be eligible. A convenient office in the Prospect Union in Central Square, Cambridge, is kept open from four to six and from seven to nine every day. The men take turns keeping office hours, and each man carries through to completion the cases that come in during his hour. Doubtful cases are presented to an executive board for review in order to avoid as far as possible the undesirable result of giving aid to the unworthy.

The success and enthusiasm with which the work has been carried on is due largely to the desire on the part of the men to apply concretely the principles they have learned in the classroom. Legal theories become vitalized and have a new meaning. Thus in addition to the aid given to those in need of it, the men derive from their handling of real cases a practical benefit not afforded by the curriculum.

The Bureau's chairman for the current academic year is Mr. Charles B. Rugg of Worcester, Mass.; the secretary is Mr. Clarence B. Randall of Cambridge. The members from the third year class are Messrs. T. W. Arnold, L. Brewer, J. A. Daly, C. P. Franchot, R. P. Goldman, F. C. Hodgson, R. H. Holt, F. A. Johnson, R. S. Keebler, P. McColleston, W. F. Merrill, E. R. Philbin, H. E. Riddell, K. T. Siddall, and M. C. Teall. The members from the second year are Messrs. J. B. Dempsey, E. G. Fifield, J. Garfield, E. C. Kanzler, E. W. Middleton, F. A. Nagel, F. M. Qua, B. Reiley, A. C. Tener, and R. S. Wilkins. The chairman and secretary under whose auspices the organization was inaugurated were Mr. Campbell Bosson of Boston, Mass., and Mr. Malcolm M. McDermott of Chattanooga, Tenn. The expenses of operation are met by the Law School Society of Phillips Brooks House.

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RIGHT OF MUNICIPALITY TO AMUSE ITS CITIZENS AS A FUNCTION OF GOVERNMENT. — No question is more difficult than the determination of the exact field of government in the modern state. Originally only purposes clearly *governmental* in character were included within it. Gradually, however, under changed economic and social conditions not only have these strictly governmental activities of the state increased in number, but also a variety of public businesses such as waterworks, gas plants, and street railways have come under government control or ownership. A recent case before the Supreme Court of Ohio suggests that there may be still another field for governmental activity by raising the question whether a city may not establish at public expense a municipal moving picture show. *State ex rel. Toledo v. Lynch*, 102 N. E. 670 (Ohio). The court denied the right of the city to establish such a theatre. Whether this holding was absolutely essential for the disposition of the case seems doubtful, for no express authorization to build the theatre had been given by the state legislature, and the court placed great reliance upon the point that a constitutional provision giving to the city general powers of local self-government under which such an authorization might be implied was not yet in effect.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The opinions of the respective justices were as follows:

Shauck, C. J., held (1) That the powers of local self-government had not yet passed to the municipal council under the constitutional provision; but nevertheless added